



Susan Bysiewicz
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- NEWS RELEASE -

BYSIEWICZ WARNS SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSIONER THOUSANDS OF CITIZENS COULD BE DISENFRANCHISED UNLESS ACTION IS TAKEN

SECRETARY OF THE STATE SAYS SHUTTING DOWN SOCIAL SECURITY
DATABASE WILL HINDER 40 STATES IN VERIFYING VOTER REGISTRATION

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today issued the following statement regarding the Social Security Administration's proposed October 11th -13th shutdown of its online systems.

"I urge Social Security Administration Commissioner Michael J. Astrue to reconsider the timing of the National Computer Center Annual Building Shutdown from October 11 – 13, 2008," said Bysiewicz. "The shutdown will result in the inaccessibility of online system services just weeks before the November 4th elections. More than forty (40) states across the country have voter registration deadlines in October, and where state law requires a match against the SSA database, thousands of citizens could be disenfranchised with the system down at such a critical time."

In Connecticut, the Centralized Voter Registration System (CVRS) allows a voter to be registered, even if the election official is not able to get a match against the SSA database. However, in such a case, a voter would be required to provide additional identification at the polls.

"With an extremely high turnout predicted on November 4th, it is essential that voters move in and out of polling places smoothly and without delay. It is critical that the Social Security Administration reconsider this routine maintenance to prevent additional burdens on Connecticut voters when they head to the polls," said Bysiewicz. A copy of Secretary Bysiewicz's letter is attached.